

II. *On a new and remarkable species of Attacus.*

By W. H. MISKIN.

[Read 5th January, 1876.]

THE following description of what, I believe, to be a unique and extraordinary form of this genus of moths will probably be read with interest.

*Attacus Hercules*, n. sp.

Ferruginous.

*Male*.—Antennæ tawny, nearly a fourth as long again as thorax, exceedingly deeply and perfectly bipectinate, the branches in pairs of equal length. Thorax and abdomen same colour as wings, the latter with white band at base.

*Fore wing*.—Costa considerably convex apically, falcate, nearly square at apical angle; outer margin concave; posterior angle rounded; semi-hyaline narrow discal band, bordered inwardly with black, nearly straight, but arched when touching the costa; vitreous triangular discal spot attenuated, base rounded, point not touching the band, lined round narrowly with white, and again surrounded by a narrow band of black, which, on the side parallel with the base, is broad and crescent-shaped; some distance beyond this, towards the base of the wing, is a corresponding arch of white; a narrow basal transverse band of white runs angularly towards the base from median vein to abdominal margin; a rosy patch in apical angle.

*Hind wing*.—Long tail; abdominal margin perfectly straight, from a little below extremity of abdomen to about three-fourths the length of tail, where it slightly dilates, then abruptly diverging at an obtuse angle, until it meets extremity of outer margin (which is somewhat curved from a little above the elbow), forms a long, acutely-pointed angle; main branch of median nervure not continued down the tail (as in *Tropæa*), but terminating on outer margin a little before the tail; there are consequently but three nervures contained therein: the submedian reaching a little below the elbow, the second median branch only reaching to the extreme point, the third intermediate; basal part of abdominal margin excavated;

apical angle not rounded; discal band as in fore wing, but quite straight to within short distance of abdominal margin, when it curves and touches the margin a little way down the tail; vitreous spot as in fore wing, but smaller, less attenuated, and less rounded at base; short white transverse band as in fore wings, about equidistant between spot and base of wing.

*Underside* much lighter in colour and hoary; all the dark markings obsolete or indistinct; a white patch at base of hind wings.

Margins of both wings entire.

Length of body 1' 7"; expanse of wings 7' 4"; length of abdominal margin to point of tail 4' 7"; of tail 2' 3"; breadth of tail 4".

*Female*. — Antennæ, arising from strongly-developed sockets, lightly bipectinate. Thorax and abdomen same colour as wings, broad white band at base of latter, and a narrow one near apex of same.

*Fore wing* rounded towards apex, outer margin slightly concave, posterior angles rounded; markings as in ♂, except that the discal band is widely bordered outwardly by a band of rosy grey, radiated on its outer edge; dark rosy patch at extremity of apical angle, bordered inwardly with white; a short line of rosy pink near patch; vitreous spot much larger in proportion than in ♂, nearly touching discal band; otherwise same as in ♂.

*Hind wing* with short very broad tail, which is nearly square, but rather broader than long; abdominal margin nearly straight to inner angle of tail, where it is rounded; outer angle of tail rather acute; from a little above commencement of tail on outer side is a white submarginal line continued along bottom of tail (where it is crenated) to the inner angle; rosy-grey discal band, not radiated; base of vitreous spot arched, otherwise same as in ♂, as also other markings. Discal area of both wings a shade darker than other parts.

*Underside* pale, the dark markings indistinct; the white submarginal line in tail as on upper side.

Length of body 2' 1"; expanse of wings 9"; length of hind wing to inner angle of tail 3' 7"; of tail, outer edge, 10"; breadth of tail 1'.

*Hab.* — Cape York, Queensland.

Both specimens are contained in the Collection of the Queensland Museum, and are remarkably fine examples. They are, as far as I can learn, the only individuals that

have ever been collected, and were captured at Cape York and presented to the Museum; the ♂ by the late C. D'Oylye Apin, Esq., and the ♀ by F. Jardine, Esq.

The novel feature in *A. Hercules* is, of course, the tailed hind wings. In every other respect (including the neuration of the wings) it agrees with the characters of the genus, as given by Walker in the B. M. Catalogues. Whether this peculiarity should be considered of sufficient importance to justify the creation of a new genus for this moth is doubtful. But for the additions to the wings, our insect bears a striking resemblance to *A. Atlas*.